

CLAIMS

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An interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, comprising:

a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

an antenna,

5 an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and

one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said interface comprises one or more buttons.

10 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said interface comprises a sensor.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sensor detects temperature.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sensor detects light.

15 6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an output device.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said output device generates a visible signal.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said output device generates an audible signal.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said output device generates a tactile signal.

20 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is configured to exist in alternate states responsive to said external stimulus.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is configured to exist in one of several states responsive to said external stimulus.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, where said external stimulus comprises user manipulation.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, where said external stimulus comprises environmental exposure.

14. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a button of said transponder is connected with a switch in a circuit including the antenna and the integrated circuit.

5 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said button is pushed to close the switch and enable the transponder to be read by a polling transceiver.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, comprising a plurality of buttons connected with the switch of said transponder connected with the integrated circuit.

10 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein one of said plurality of buttons is pushed to close the switch thereby selecting a memory to provide a response to a polling transceiver.

18. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a button of said apparatus is connected with a variable response switch connected with the integrated circuit.

15 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said button is contacted by a user to operate said switch thereby selecting a memory to provide a response to a polling transceiver.

~~20. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said sensor comprises a transducer and a variable voltage sensor.~~

20 21. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said output device is at least one of a light-emitting diode and a speaker.

22. A method of changing the response provided by a polled radio frequency tag, comprising:

providing an interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, having,

a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

25 an antenna,

an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and

one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder; and

applying an external stimulus to said interface to change the state of said transponder.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising generating a signal indicating that the state of said radio frequency transponder has changed.

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24. The method of claim 23, wherein said signal is visible.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said signal is audible.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein said signal is tactile.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein said interface, wherein said interface comprises one or more buttons.

10 28. The method of claim 22, wherein said interface comprises a sensor.

29. A radio frequency tag apparatus, having,

a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

an antenna,

an integrated circuit;

15 an output device responsive to a radio frequency signal received at said antenna to generate an output signal.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said output device is a light-emitting diode.